

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Shin-Roei Lee)
MEETING DATE: July 11, 2007

- ITEM: 9
- SUBJECT: Erosive Forces and Stream Restoration Efforts in Santa Clara County – Status Report
- CHRONOLOGY: The Board has not previously considered this item.
- DISCUSSION: At the July meeting, stakeholders from Santa Clara County will present an overview of key concepts discussed at a recent meeting that focused on protecting streams from excessive erosion. The Santa Clara Valley Water District’s Environmental Advisory Committee and the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) jointly sponsored this meeting in January 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a shared understanding of the problems associated with stream erosion and restoration solutions. The meeting facilitated a dialogue among invited stakeholders representing a diversity of viewpoints.
- Key presenters from this meeting will present the group consensus and their different perspectives to the Water Board for further dialogue. Trish Mulvey, Chair of the WMI, will present the group’s consensus. Other participating stakeholders representing local government, environmental advocates, and home builders will briefly present their perspectives on erosive forces in streams and stream restoration.
- Water District Board members Richard Santos and Rosemary Kamei, as well as State Water Board member Gary Wolff and Water Board member Margaret Bruce, were part of the group that attended the January meeting. An audio-visual record of the meeting is available on request.
- At the meeting, the group reached consensus on the following concepts:
- Natural erosion tends to improve the ecological habitat value of streams;
 - Human-induced accelerated erosion tends to degrade habitat value, and cause other negative consequences;
 - Human-induced erosion is caused by activities and structures both in streams and in the urbanized landscape;

- Solutions could involve both reconfiguring the channel and reducing the rate of stormwater discharges from new and existing development; and
- The best solutions need to be developed on a reach by reach and case by case basis.

The group also discussed possible solutions and agreed that to solve erosion problems in particular reaches there may be a need to:

- Reconfigure channels
- Moderate stormwater flows from new development
- Moderate stormwater flows from existing development

The Santa Clara Countywide Stormwater Permit currently requires major new and redevelopment projects to implement control measures to moderate stormwater flows and protect streams from further erosion. Staff plans to incorporate and refine these requirements in a future municipal regional permit. The bigger challenge is how to address erosive stormwater flows from existing development. As part of our effort to develop a Stream and Wetlands Systems Protection Policy, we are exploring ways to create financial incentives to encourage voluntary actions. This policy will likely establish a framework that incorporates many of the good ideas discussed at this meeting. We will continue to coordinate with this group to find solutions.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

Information only – no action needed.